



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Hampton officials closely monitoring progress of Hurricane Sandy

The City of Hampton expects to feel the effects of Hurricane Sandy, including rain, wind and a storm surge, as it moves along the East Coast this weekend.

While the path and potential impact of the hurricane remain uncertain, city emergency preparedness staff and department heads are closely monitoring the storm and preparing for any flooding or high winds that we may receive.

The most recent forecast for the hurricane shows the track has moved west, and the landfall point has moved south, around Delaware and Maryland.

Weather forecasters stress that this storm is part hurricane and part Nor'easter. It has less of a tight eye, or center, but it is much broader. That means Hampton could begin feeling the effects of the storm sooner, and over a much longer period of time.

Current projection for Hampton and surrounding areas suggest:

- Rain could hit by Saturday afternoon, with rainfall totals between 5-7 inches before it tapers off Monday.
- Sustained winds of 40-45 mph are possible, with wind gusts up to 60 mph. While the sustained winds would start early Sunday, gusts could be seen much sooner.
- Moderate flooding is expected from a storm surge of 3-5 feet, with high tides reaching 6-7 feet above the mean low water level Sunday and Monday.

The size and duration of the storm are of particular concern. Residents are urged to make preparations for flooding and possible power outages. Residents of low-lying areas or those with medical or other special needs should consider whether they want to evacuate.

Hampton has a consistent program of stormwater efforts in place and has been working with residents to ensure that we clean each public drainage ditch at least once a year. Our stormwater/drainage team also started a process early this week of checking on drainage hotspots throughout the city as a preventive measure.

Police and fire officials are making contingency plans. Vehicles and boats are being prepared, and plans are being made to open shelters in case they become necessary for displaced residents.

This is the best information we have available at this time; however, the path of the storm can change and residents are urged to watch forecasts closely.

According to the National Weather Service, the hurricane was about 460 miles southeast of Charleston, S.C., late Friday morning with maximum sustained winds of 80 miles per hour and moving northwest at about 6 miles per hour. Hurricane force winds extended up to 35 miles from the center, and tropical storm winds extend up to 275 miles from the center.

For emergency information from the city, including emergency preparedness information, go to www.hampton.gov/eoc/ . To see a map of the city's surge zones, go to http://hampton.gov/eoc/pdf/hampton_surge_zone_map.pdf.

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